

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A PWM (pulse width modulation) control circuit for generating a PWM signal, comprising:
  - a counter for incrementing or decrementing a count value in accordance with a given operation clock;
  - an edge-point value setting register for storing an edge-point value which specifies a first edge-point at which the level of the PWM signal varies;
  - a PWM output circuit for varying the level of the PWM signal at said first edge-point specified by said edge-point value, based on said count value from said counter and said edge-point value from said edge-point value setting register;
  - a delay value setting register provided on low order side of said edge-point value setting register, for storing a delay value of at least one bit which specifies a delay time of said first edge-point; and
  - a period value setting register for storing a period value which specifies a period of the PWM signal,

wherein said PWM output circuit delays said first edge-point by a period which is smaller than one-clock period of said operation clock, in accordance with said delay value stored in said delay value setting register; and

wherein said delay value setting register stores an M-bit delay value; and

wherein said PWM output circuit delays said first edge-point by any one of substantially  $\frac{1}{2}^M$  clock period, substantially  $2/2^M$  clock period, and substantially  $(2^M - 1)/2^M$  clock period of said operation clock, in accordance with said M-bit delay value stored in said delay value setting register.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The PWM control circuit as defined in ~~claim 4~~, claim 1,

wherein said PWM output circuit comprises:

a comparator for comparing said count value from said counter with said edge-point value from said edge-point value setting register to generate a first signal having a signal level which varies at said first edge-point specified by said edge-point value;

a delay circuit for generating a second signal having a signal level which varies at a point delayed from said first edge-point by substantially  $1/2^M$  clock period of said operation clock, a third signal having a signal level which varies at a point delayed from said first edge-point by substantially  $2/2^M$  clock period of said operation clock, . . . and a  $2^M$  - th signal having a signal level which varies at a point delayed from said first edge-point by substantially  $(2^M - 1)/2^M$  clock period of said operation clock, based on said first signal, said operation clock and a given delay element; and

a multiplexer for selecting any of said first through  $2^M$  - th signals in accordance with said M-bit delay value stored in said delay value setting register.

6. (Original) A microcomputer for performing information processing, comprising:

a programmable timer including the PWM control circuit as defined in claim 1; and

a processor for executing instructions and for performing processing for storing said edge-point and delay values in said edge-point and delay value setting registers in said PWM control circuit.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A microcomputer for performing information processing, comprising:

a programmable timer including the PWM control circuit as defined in claim 5; and

a processor for executing instructions and for performing processing for storing said edge-point and delay values in said edge-point and delay value setting registers in said PWM control circuit.

11. (Original) Electronic equipment comprising:  
the microcomputer as defined in claim 6;  
a source of input data to be processed by said microcomputer; and  
an output device for outputting an analog signal by using the PWM signal generated by said PWM control circuit included in said microcomputer.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) Electronic equipment comprising:  
the microcomputer as defined in claim 10;  
a source of input data to be processed by said microcomputer; and  
an output device for outputting an analog signal by using the PWM signal generated by said PWM control circuit included in said microcomputer.